

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 DHA-02 EB-07
TRSE-00 ORM-02 IO-13 IGA-02 SCA-01 /086 W
-----115946 090132Z /14
O 082325Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4830

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ES, US, PINT, PINS
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BERTRAND-GALINDO'S VISIT TO EMBASSY

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 3144

1. SUMMARY: SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, FRANCISCO
BERTRAND-GALINDO, CALLED ON ME THIS MORNING AT HIS REQUEST
TO BRING ME UP-TO-DATE ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GOES
ON ITS RELATIONS WITH US. HE TOLD OF PLANS OF GOVERNMENT
TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE. HE MENTIONED PROPOSAL
FOR US PARTICIPATION IN FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF RICHARDSON
CASE AND FOR BRIEFING SOON OF FOREIGN MINISTER ON QTE WHAT
IS AT STAKE UNQTE IN US-SALVADORAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR BERTRAND-GALINDO PLANS TO RETURN TO WASHING-
TON NEXT TUESDAY, JULY 12, AND WILL IMMEDIATELY REQUEST
APPOINTMENT WITH MATTHEWS, ARA/CEN, TO INFORM HIM OF ESSENTIALLY
WHAT HE TOLD ME TODAY. HE SAID PLANS NOW CALLED FOR HIM TO STAY
UP TO SIX MONTHS LONGER IN WASHINGTON UNTIL CURRENT ACUTE PRO-
BLEMS IN RELATIONS WITH US RESOLVED. ROBERTO QUINOES WOULD
STAY IN BACKGROUND READING UP ON JOB TO REPLACE HIM LATER.
ANOTHER AMBASSADOR WILL BE NAMED TO TAKE OVER RELATIONS WITH
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OAS.

3. BERTRAND-GALINDO SPOKE FIRST OF RICHARDSON CASE. HE
SPOKE WITH NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, EX-MINISTER OF JUSTICE
FABIO HERCULES PINEDA, AND READ REPORT FOR FORMER ATTORNEY
GENERAL. ALTHOUGH MANY DECLARATIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN, INCLUDING
EX/DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION COL. CHACON AND EVEN POLICE

WHO (ALLEGEDLY) TOOK RICHARDSON TO GUATEMALA BORDER FOR DEPORTATION, CONCLUSION WAS THAT MORE INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED INCLUDING ON-THE-SPOT SURVEY OF BORDER CROSSING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A PERSON DEPORTED THERE COULD ENTER GUATEMALA AVOIDING IMMIGRATION AND OTHER PROCESSING. GOES PROPOSAL WILL BE THAT AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL JOIN THE INVESTIGATION TEAM (EITHER TO SEE FOR OURSELVES OR TO HELP ON INVESTIGATION). I SAID I COULD HARDLY SEE HOW WE COULD ACCEPT SUCH AN INVITATION, BUT WOULD ALERT STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE RECOMMENDATION HE PLANS TO CARRY THERE. HE PRESUMABLY WILL EXPLAIN MORE FULLY WHAT THE ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE BUT I BELIEVE ON EMOTIVE IS STILL TO FIND OUT WHO OUR SOURCES WERE, PERHAPS SINCERELY BELIEVING THEY WOULD LEAD THE WAY TO SOLUTION OF THE CASE BY REVEALING SAME FACTS TO GOES INVESTIGATIVE TEAM AS TO EARLIER US CONTACTS. BERTRAND-GALINDO READILY RECOGNIZED THEY MIGHT TELL US TRUTH BUT LIE UNDER OATH. HE SAID THEY HAD DECIDED THAT TO TORTURE ANYONE TO GET THE TRUTH OUT WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE* I INFERRED FROM ONE REMARK HE MADE THAT GOES MIGHT COME UP WITH A GUILTY PERSON THUS CLOSING CASE (SAME WAS PRACTICALLY STATED BY DIRECTOR IMMIGRATION SANTIVANES TO DEA REP AND POL OFFICER IN RECENT CONVERSATION). VICE PRESIDENT IN HIS COORDINATING ROLE AS MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY, HE SAID, WAS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE MOMENT ON RICHARDSON CASE.

4. BERTRAND-GALINDO SAID WE SHOULD GIVE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A BRIEFING SOON ON US-SALVADORAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZING QTE WHAT IS AT STAKE UNQTE. I TOLD HIM I HAD PLANNED NEXT WEEK TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT TO GO OVER OUR RELATIONS AND THE PENDING HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. I WOULD ALSO REVIEW QTE WHAT IS AT STAKE UNQTE. HE TOLD HE FRANKLY IT WOULD BE BETTER, BECAUSE HIGH OFFICIALS WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO BE IMPRESSED BY SOMEONE FROM STATE, IF WADE MATTHEWS OR FRANK DEVINE COULD COME DOWN FROM STATE ARA TO JOIN ME IN THE PRESENTATION, SINCE AS THE ONE TO TAKE CHARGE AFTER AMBASSADOR LOZANO'S DEPARTURE, I WAS ALSO IDENTIFIED WITH THE DISTANCING OF THE EMBASSY FROM THE GOES. I OBJECTED TO LAST POINT INSISTING THAT ANY QTE DISTANCING UNQTE WAS BETWEEN GOES AND USG AND NOT FROM EMBASSY AS DISTINCT FROM USG, EMPHASIZING ALSO THATEVER AMBASSADOR LOZANO OR I DID OR DO WAS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF USG AND UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. HE MUMBLED SOMETHING ABOUT HIS HAVING MADE THAT RECOMMENDATION AND HIS OWN POSITION WAS AT STAKE BEFORE THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY CLAIMING THE SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

5. HE WAS ALREADY AWARE OF PLANNED FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN EL SALVADOR. HE SAID HE FELT

STATE DEPARTMENT COULD TAKE A POSITION BEFORE CONGRESS THAT WOULD PREVENT ANY SERIOUSLY DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES TO US-SALVADORAN RELATIONS. ALONG WITH GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MY FEELINGS OF MUTUALITY OF INTEREST AND COMMITMENT IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE WHEREVER, I SAID I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF EL SALVADOR REACTED STRIDENTLY TO THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS, ALTHOUGH I EMPHASIZED THESE HEARINGS COULD HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR US-SALVADORAN RELATIONS GIVEN INTENSITY OF FEELINGS OVER THE UGB THREAT TO THE JESUITS. BERTRAND-GALINDO HASTENED TO ADD THAT A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SOME KIND WAS BEING PREPARED ON THAT ISSUE. HE SAID HE AGREED THAT SALVADORAN REACTION TO HEARINGS SHOULD REFLECT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON GOES PART TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN EL SALVADOR, BUT GOES WOULD HAVE TO PROTEST INTERVENTION IN ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

6. BERTRAND-GALINDO THEN REVIEWED FOR ME VARIOUS STEPS GOES HAD IN MIND OR WAS DOING TO IMPROVE SITUATION:

A) PROBLEM OF CONSULAR ACCESS AND VIENNA CONVENTION WAS TERMINATED AND THERE WOULD BE NO MORE VIOLATIONS.

B) GOES WILL OPEN EMBASSY AND SEND AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN WHERE MODUS OPERANDI WOULD BE WORKED OUT FOR FOREIGN PRIESTS COMING TO AND WORKING IN EL SALVADOR, ESSENTIALLY THAT THEY PERFORM THEIR PRIESTLY DUTIES AND STAY OUT OF POLITICS OR THEY WOULD BE FLOWN OUT, WITHOUT BEING TORTURED HE EMPHASIZED. (HERE ENSUED A LONG CONVERSATION ON THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY OF ANY PRIEST IN EL SALVADOR CONCERNING HIMSELF WITH THE TEMPORAL WELL-BEING AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE A LA VATICAN II AND MEDELLIN AND QTE STAYING OUT OF POLITICS UNQTE. HE ADMITTED TO SOME POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONS WITH THE VATICAN ON THIS ISSUE).

C) GOES WILL TRY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA WHENCE THEY CONSIDER MUCH OF THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN OAS COME.

D) THEY WILL INCREASE AND IMPROVE THEIR REPRESENTATION IN MEXICO WHERE MANY OF THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WHO WRITE SO QTE HARSHLY AND INCORRECTLY UNQTE ABOUT EL SALVADOR ARE.

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 DHA-02 EB-07
TRSE-00 ORM-02 IO-13 IGA-02 SCA-01 /086 W
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E) THEY ARE GOING TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITION IN
MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS TO GET SUPPORT FOR HIGHER
LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH THEM (I
AM NOT SURE THAT HE WAS TRYING TO SAY GOES WAS
NOT SO CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED US ASSISTANCE, OR WHAT). THIS
WOULD BE PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT TO ACCELERATE SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS THE BASIC UNDERLYING FACTOR IN ALL
THEIR PROBLEMS,--WITH SUBVERSION, WITH THEIR POLITICAL
SYSTEM, AND WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY WILL EMPHASIZE THE AGRI-
CULTURAL SECTOR TO EXTENT IMPROVEMENT IS POSSIBLE, BUT ABOVE ALL
INDUSTRIALIZATION. I REMINDED HIM THAT PERHAPS A MORE BASIC
PROBLEM WAS POPULATION GROWTH AND EVEN WITH MOST HOPED-FOR
SUCCESS IN FAMILY PLANNING EL SALVADOR WOULD HAVE TO EXPORT
PEOPLE. HE REALIZED PROBLEM US HAS ON THAT ISSUE AND SAID
THEY WERE GOING TO WORK ON BILATERAL QTE COLONIZATION
UNQTE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

) THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO GOING TO OPEN UP DIALOGUE
WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION, INVITE THEM TO
PARTICIPATE IN ASSEMBLY (WITH MAYBE 20 MEMBERS, HE SAID), AND
GIVEN THEM A NUMBER OF CITY MAYORSHIPS.HE SAID RETURN
OF NAPOLEON DURATE MIGHT BE TOO MUCH TO TAKE FOR NOW.

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7. ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS IN VERY FRIENDLY BUT VERY
SERIOUS MOOD. IN CLOSING, I EMPHASIZED OUR DESIRE THAT
ALL THE PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS BE WORKED OUT, THAT WE WANT
TO APPROACH THOSE RELATIONS IN A COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL SPIRIT
AND WITH HUMILITY IN REALIZATION WE ALSO HAVE MANY PROBLEMS TO
SOLVE IN US. ALTHOUGH BERTRAND-GALINDO TRIED TO GIVE IMPRESSION
THERE HAS BEEN A TURN-AROUND IN GOES ATTITUDE AND POLICY ON
HUMAN RIGHTS, I AM NOT CONVINCED ITS ANYTHING MORE THAN WINDOW-
DRESSING OR PROTECTIVE COLORATION. WE DISCUSSED SOME OF THE MORE

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SUCH AS ARBITRARY ARRESTS, LANGUISHING IN JAIL, DISAPPEARANCES, MEDIEVAL PRACTICES OF NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE SUCH AS TYING THUMBS TOGETHER INSTEAD OF USING HANDCUFFS OR INHUMANE TREATMENT TO EXTRACT CONFESSIONS. HE ATTRIBUTED MUCH OF THIS TO DEEPLY-SEATED TRADITION GOING BACK TO COLONIAL PERIOD, WHICH WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO CHANGE. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A START.

LUBENSKY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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